

REMARKS

A change of correspondence address form is attached.

Regarding the objection that the drawings do not show the methods of claims 7 and 8, the drawings need not show every step of the method, but rather "the drawings must disclose the invention so that persons skilled in the art can make and use the invention by following a detailed description of the same." Walker on Patents, Deller's Edition, Vol. 2, p. 734. Indeed for some methods or processes, the invention may not require drawings in order to properly disclose the invention. See In re Myers, 120 USPQ 225, 226 (Comm'r of Patents 1958).

As filed, applicant's drawings, Figs. 1 - 6 show every structural feature of the claimed invention, including the structure necessary to effectuate the methods of claims 7 and 8. In addition, the specification sufficiently describes the claimed invention to enable an ordinary person skilled in the art to make and use the invention. The method of claim 7 is specifically recited on page 6, beginning on line 17. The push-in type wire connector has a conductive clip 72 and a conductive extension 56 electrically connected to the clip 72. The clip 72 receives stripped ends of the conductors in an electrical engagement. Then the conductive extension is electrically attached to a common terminus thus electrically connecting the wires to a common terminus. Beginning on page 4, line 17, two or more wires can be connected using the method of claim 8. The wires are first placed over the top of the clip 24 having front and rear legs with the wires being in alignment with slots 32. Then the cap 14 is pressed downwardly toward a base 12 of the wire connector. During attachment of the cap, the wires are driven down between finger tines 28A, 28B, 30A, 30B of each of the front and rear clip legs. The tines also pierce the insulation of the wire and engage the conductors underneath the insulation. Once assembly is completed, the wires are electrically connected to the conductive extension extending out of the

housing. Thereafter, the conductive extension may be connected to a common terminus. The wires and common terminus are not a claimed feature of the invention and need not be shown, but there is no ambiguity to persons of ordinary skill in the art about where the wires should be placed in order to effectuate the methods of claim 7 or 8. Therefore, the drawings as filed show every feature of the invention as required under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and no correction should be required.

Applicant has amended claim 3 so as to clarify that the "two-part housing" in claim 3 refers to the housing recited in claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that this clarification appropriately corrects any §112 problem.

Regarding the §103 rejection, applicant respectfully cannot agree that claim 1 of applicant's invention would have been rendered obvious by the Jacques patent and the Benes patent. Jacques shows a housing 1 having walls which define openings 35 for permitting the incoming wires to extend into the housing cavity. There are push-in pieces or plungers 3 having elongate members 11,12. There are also openings 13, 14 within the push-in pieces each of which holds a wire therein. As push-in pieces are inserted with the housing 1, the wires are pierced by an IDC clip 2 located within the housing. Teeth 26, 27 of the push-in piece fasten the push-in piece to the housing. The teeth are positioned immediately adjacent the housing walls and are retained by staple-like collars 36. It is counterintuitive to suggest that the teeth are conductive extensions because they merely teach or suggest a way to limit the upward motion of the push-in piece as the piece is retained within the housing. Contrary to applicant's invention, nothing whatsoever in the Jacques patent teaches or discloses a conductive extension electrically connected to the clip and extending through the housing wall to the exterior of the housing.

The Benes patent shows an insulating housing 14 including an IDC clip or slot 36 with first and second retaining fingers 34a and 34b. Each set of fingers receives an individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing. The Benes patent also does not teach or disclose any conductive extension that electrically connects to the clip and extends through the housing wall to the exterior of the housing.

In addition, claims 7 and 8 would not be rendered obvious by the Jacques or Benes patents because, as described above, neither patent teaches or discloses a method having a connector with a conductive extension as claimed. Furthermore, neither patent teaches or suggests a conductive extension electrically connected to the clip and to a common terminus. Put another way, applicant's methods allow for two or more wires to be connected to a common terminus without having to individually connect each conductor to the terminus. Therefore, the claimed invention of claims 7 and 8 should not be rendered obvious by either the Jacques patent or the Benes patent.

Claims 2 - 6 depend on independent claim 1 and as such should be allowable as written. In addition, certain dependent claims should be allowable for other reasons. In claim 4, applicant's uses the terminology "push-in type connector" to describe a housing which receives inserted, i.e. pushed-in, stripped wires within an electrically conductive clip 72 which is fixed within the housing. Applicant's use is different as compared to Jacques because in Jacques the push-in pieces 3 themselves must be pushed into the housing. The push-in pieces 3 first must receive wires through the openings 13, 14 and then the pieces must be inserted into the housing in order to pierce the wire insulation and electrically connect the conductors to the IDC clip. The use of the common term "push-in" cannot by itself render applicant's push-in type connector obvious. Moreover, claims 5 and 6 disclose different types of conductive extensions which are

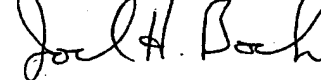
not taught or described by the prior art. In claim 5, the conductive extension is a blade type terminal and in claim 6 the extension is a pigtail. There are no teachings or disclosures within the Jacques patent or Benes patent showing the IDC clip electrically connected to a blade type terminal or a pigtail. For these additional reasons, the cited patents do not teach or suggest applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed that claims 1- 8 clearly distinguish from the prior art references cited by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) The wire connector of claim 2 [having] wherein the housing is a
two-part housing including a base and a cap.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel H. Bock

Registration No. 29,045

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.,
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 236-8500
Fax: (312) 726-9756

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